

well as among the general public before technology comes to be recognized as the important and highly respected calling which it is on the Continent and in the U.S.A."

South African Fisheries Research Ship *Africana II*

At the present time, when fisheries research and development are receiving so much attention in many parts of the world, it is useful to have available Fisheries Bulletin No. 3 of the South African Fisheries and Marine Biological Survey Division (pp. 47; Pretoria: Government Printer, 1951), in which a clear and concise description is given of a new research ship that has recently gone into service in South Africa. On October 10, 1949, the Fisheries Research Ship *Africana II* was launched from the yard of Messrs. A. and J. Inglis, Ltd., Pointhouse Shipyard, Glasgow. On completion, the vessel sailed from the Clyde on January 28, 1950, and arrived at her home-port of Cape Town on February 22 after an uneventful voyage of twenty-four days with only a brief stop of twenty-four hours at Las Palmas for refuelling. This magnificent vessel of 205 ft. overall length and 1,300 tons displacement is provided with large and well-equipped biological and hydrological laboratories, scientific stores, refrigeration space, net store and scientific workshop. The deck equipment and research methods are substantially similar to those of the British Oceanographical Institute's *Discovery II* and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' *Ernest Holt*. For shallow water soundings a Marconi 'Visagraph' echo-sounder is fitted, while deep soundings are taken with a Kelvin and Hughes' type MS XXI echo-sounder. Marconi 'Radiolocator' radar and Marconi 'Lodestone' direction-finder equipment are installed. F.R.S. *Africana II* is a worthy successor to R.S. *Africana*, which did yeoman service in South African waters for nine years before the Second World War and then spent five years on war service with the South African naval forces. With such a well-designed and well-equipped research ship at their disposal, the staff of the Fisheries and Marine Survey Division of the Department of Commerce and Industries of South Africa should be able to investigate with ever-increasing success the many fisheries and other biological problems that confront them in South African and adjacent waters.

Recent Advances in Sound Recording

PROGRESS in the field of sound recording was amply demonstrated in the annual exhibition of the British Sound Recording Association, held at the Waldorf Hotel, London, during May 17-18. This year, twenty-five exhibitors showed and demonstrated their latest equipment. The reliability of the general run of commercial sound-recording apparatus can now be taken for granted, and the delays in delivery indicate the healthiness of the industry. Apart from commercial ends, a fool-proof apparatus has many uses in science and education, even if only to record a series of observations to be analysed later at leisure. The present history of sound recording is illustrated by the rapid strides in magnetic tape recording, using a thin dispersed film of oxide on a plastic base, the general idea of which was predicted by Poulsen at the turn of the century but not practically achieved until developed in Germany specially for delaying radio-transmission just before the Second World War. Subsequent improvements both in Great Britain and in the United States have

displaced the use of steel wire for anything but the recording of speech, actually developed in the United States for air operations over the Pacific. At long last the traditional wax cylinder for office dictating is being replaced by a plastic belt, which can be folded and sent through the post, as can also a paper disk carrying magnetic material, normally used when clamped on a turntable. In the field of commercial disk records, samples of the narrow-groove slow-speed records, which can play for a long time, have been in hand for some years, apart from talking-books for the blind; before the end of the year, two of the leading companies in this field will be making and distributing such disks. The 'battle of the revs', already in full swing in the United States, will soon be in full force in Britain also. Fortunately, many firms can supply reproducers with all three speeds, 78, 45 and 33½ r.p.m., and all that the user has to take care of is the use of a needle with the correct radius of needle-tip.

Prehistory of Karnatak, India

DR. H. D. SANKALIA is well known for his work in India on the early prehistory of Gujarat and the Deccan, and in a paper entitled "Studies in the Prehistory of Karnatak" (*Bull. Deccan College and Research Inst., Poona*, 11; 1950), written in collaboration with B. Subba Rao and R. V. Joshi, he has turned his attention to a region farther to the south, namely, the basin of the River Malaprabhā, a tributary of the River Krishna. A number of sections have been observed, and these have yielded lower palaeolithic tools—coups de poing, cleavers and the like—which closely resemble the Stellenbosch industries of South Africa. While the Indian specimens can be matched with South African examples from all the various Stellenbosch stages, it is with Stellenbosch III or V that the similarity is closest. A catalogue of the more important finds is given, and these are well illustrated. Indeed, the great improvement in the drawings over those appearing in some of Dr. Sankalia's former articles is very marked. A map and a section at Taminhal are also given. It is to be hoped that further work will be undertaken in this interesting area.

Science and Film

THE International Scientific Film Association was founded in October 1947 at a meeting in Paris attended by representatives of many countries throughout the world. It has since then encouraged the creation of national bodies concerned with scientific cinematography in a number of countries, prepared annotated lists of films, reports and other documents for publication by itself or by Unesco, and held, among other meetings, five valuable annual film conventions, in the form of international scientific film congresses and festivals of scientific films. At present the following countries are members of the Association: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Italy, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland and Uruguay. The Association has now launched a quarterly periodical, *Science and Film*, which is intended to focus attention on the use of the film in research, in medicine, in industry, in scientific information and education, and in the social sciences; the periodical will also carry details of new films and of those in production as well as bibliographical notes on catalogues, books and research papers. Further